

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 – 9, 11, 12, 14 – 17, 19, 20, 22 – 25, and 27 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 – 9, 11, 12, 14 – 17, 19, 20, 22 – 25, and 27 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 12, 17, 19, 20, and 25 have been amended. The amendments are supported by the specification and no new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 has been objected to because of a typographical error. The typographical error has been corrected and applicant respectfully requests removal of the objection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 – 9, 11, 12, 14 – 17, 19, 20, 22 – 25, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,205,142 Valle (hereinafter "Valle"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3, 4, 6 – 9, 11, 12, 14 – 17, 19, 20, 22 – 25, and 27 are patentable over Valle.

Valle discloses a start-up procedure for the sending of ATM traffic over a plurality of transmission links. In particular, Valle includes the following disclosure:

When the transmitting node starts sending the AIM SN cells, it starts a time-out of 100 milliseconds within which the receiving node determines the sequence of AIM SN cells which it is receiving from the links. The time-out expires unless the transmitting node receives the "ready" signal from all the links which were considered available at the initialization. If there is no "ready" link when the time-out expires, the local node reevaluates the availability of the links (using cell delineation), starts sending AIM SN cells over the available links and re-starts the time-out. This procedure is repeated until at least one available link is declared ready. When the time-out has been cancelled due to the reception of the "ready" signal from all the available links, or when there is at least one link ready when the time-out expires, ***the local end starts sending ATM layer cells over the "ready" link or links using the same round robin order used at the time of initialization.***

(emphasis added) (Valle, col. 6, lines 52 – 67, and Fig. 8)

As such, the procedure of Valle involves a preset order for the transmission links.

Nothing in Valle discloses or suggests the resynchronization of IMA groups on a per group basis.

In contrast independent claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 17, 19, and 25 each include the limitation of the resynchronization of a first IMA group and a second IMA group on a per group basis. As nothing in Valle discloses or teaches this limitation, claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 17, 19, and 25 are patentable over Valle under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

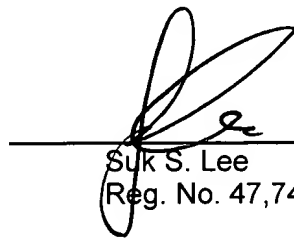
Claims 4, 6, 7, and 8 depend from independent claim 3, claims 12, 14, 15, and 16 depend from independent claim 11, claims 20, 22, 23, and 24 depend from independent claim 19, and claim 27 depends from independent claim 25. As such, claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 24, and 27 also include the limitation of the resynchronization of a first IMA group and a second IMA group on a per group basis. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 24, and 27 are also patentable over Valle under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and requests removal of the rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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